

Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for providing a centralized user interface at an administrator terminal in a network for managing operations including encoding operations performed on media data by selected ones of a plurality of media servers, the process comprising the steps of:

displaying a graphical user interface at the administrator terminal, said interface including a plurality of interface components enabling a user to select between a manual encoding mode for manually starting and stopping manual encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers, and a scheduled encoding mode for defining schedules for scheduled encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers;

receiving information input by the user specifying a selected one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation;

generating commands and associated parameters based on the input information for instructing the selected server to execute the specified encoding operation in accordance with the selected mode of operation; and

transmitting said commands and said associated parameters to said selected server.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each of the media servers is communicatively coupled with at least one corresponding multimedia device

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

capable of generating media data, and wherein each of the media servers is operative to activate a selected one of said multimedia devices, and also operative to encode the media data generated by said selected multimedia device.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the encoding operations include a preview operation, and wherein the administrator terminal also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein the selected multimedia device is a video camera which generates media data including video data, and wherein said steps of displaying, receiving, generating, and transmitting further comprise:

displaying a preview select interface component enabling the user to select a preview option for executing a preview operation including displaying video data generated by a selected video camera coupled with said selected server;

receiving information input by the user indicating that said preview option has been selected;

generating preview commands and associated preview parameters for instructing said selected server to execute said preview operation;

transmitting said preview commands and said associated preview parameters to said selected server;

receiving preview video data from said selected server; and

displaying said preview video data in a browser window on the display unit of the administrator terminal.

4. (Canceled)

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the administrator terminal also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein said process is initiated by performing the steps of:

transmitting an applet to the administrator terminal via the network; and
executing said applet over the processing unit of the administrator terminal, said graphical user interface being displayed within a browser window generated by said browser application on the display unit.

6. (Original) A process as recited in claim 2 wherein if said scheduled encoding mode is selected, said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands further comprise the steps of:

displaying scheduling interface components enabling the user to select a start time and a start date for the scheduled encoding operation;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected start time and a selected start date for initiating said scheduled encoding operation; and

generating encoding commands and associated encoding parameters for instructing said selected server to encode media data received from said selected multimedia device at said selected start time on said selected start date.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 6 wherein said steps of displaying said scheduling interface components, and receiving information further include the steps of:

displaying duration interface components enabling the user to select from time

Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

duration specification options including,

selecting a scheduled stop date and stop time for terminating said encoding operation, and

selecting a time duration for which said encoding operation is to continue following said selected start time on said selected start date; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of a selected time duration specification option.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each of the servers is operative to access at least one corresponding memory device for storing media data, and wherein each of the servers is further operative to record selected portions of encoded media data that are encoded during said encoding operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying a storage selection interface component enabling the user to select a storage location by browsing a list of available storage locations including predetermined mapped ones of the memory devices associated with said selected server;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected storage location; and

generating record commands and associated record parameters for instructing said selected server to store the selected portion of encoded media data at said selected storage location.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying a name selection interface component enabling the user specify an asset name for said encoded portion of media data to be stored at said selected storage location; and

receiving information input by the user indicating a specified asset name;

wherein said record commands and associated record parameters provide for instructing said selected encoder media server to store said encoded portion of media data at said selected storage location under said specified asset name.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying an overwriting option selection interface component enabling the user to select from a plurality of overwriting options for specifying attributes of the recording operation if a file having said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, said overwriting options including, a first option for specifying that the user is to be prompted if a file having said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, a second option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be overwritten with said encoded portion

Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

of media data, and a third option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be appended with said encoded portion of media data.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the administrator terminal and to the servers, each of the servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and associated parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying streaming interface components enabling the user to define a streaming operation for streaming the encoded media data to selected ones of the end user terminals;

receiving streaming operation information input by the user; and

generating streaming commands and associated streaming parameters based on said streaming operation information, said streaming commands and associated streaming parameters for instructing said selected server to execute a streaming operation for streaming the encoded portion of media data from said selected encoder media server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals via the network.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11 wherein said steps of displaying streaming interface components, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

displaying streaming destination selection interface components enabling the user to select at least one of the end user terminals as a destination for streaming said encoded portion of media data; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of at least one selected end user;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a streaming command and associated streaming parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to stream said encoded portion of media data to said selected end users.

13. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the administrator terminal and to the servers, each of the servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein the operations further include playback operations for streaming the stored portion of encoded media data from said selected server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals in accordance with a user defined playback schedule.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying playback destination selection interface components enabling the user to select at least one of the end user terminals as a destination for streaming said encoded portion of media data in accordance with a user defined playback schedule;

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

displaying play-back schedule interface components enabling the user define a play-back schedule; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of a user defined play-back schedule;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a play-back command and associated play-back parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to stream said stored portion of encoded media data to said selected end users via the network in accordance with said user defined play-back schedule.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14 wherein said play-back schedule interface components comprise:

a first group of components enabling the user to select a start time and a start date for said play-back schedule; and

a second group of components enabling the user to select from a plurality of options for specifying a play-back schedule duration.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13 wherein said operations further include notification operations associated with corresponding ones of the playback operations, said notification operations for sending notification messages to selected network addresses associated with selected ones of the end user terminals and the administrator terminal.

17. (Original) A method as recited in claim 16 wherein the notification operations include determining success or failure of the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying notification circumstance selection interface components enabling the user to select from the notification circumstance options of, a first option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation fails, a second option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation is successful, and a third option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation fails of is successful; and

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected notification circumstance option;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a notification command and associated notification parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to send notification messages to the selected network addresses in accordance with said selected notification circumstance option.

18. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the administrator terminal also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein a selected one of the multimedia devices is a video camera which generates media data including video data, and wherein if said manual encoding mode is selected, said process further comprises the steps of:

generating manual mode initiation commands and associated parameters for

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

instructing the selected server to initiate a manual encoding operation;

transmitting said manual mode initiation commands and associated parameters to said selected server via the network;

receiving video data from said selected server via the network;

displaying said video data in a browser window on the display unit of the administrator terminal, and also displaying manual encoding mode control interface components enabling the user to select from manual control options including a start option for starting and resuming the manual encoding process, and a stop option for stopping the manual encoding process;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected one of the manual control options;

if said start option is selected, generating a start command for instructing said selected media server to start the manual encoding process, and transmitting said start command to said selected server; and

if said stop option is selected, generating a stop command for instructing said selected media server to stop the manual encoding process, and transmitting said stop command to said selected server.

19. (Original) A method for providing a centralized user interface at an administrator terminal in a network for remotely controlling encoding operations performed on media data by selected ones of a plurality of media servers, the process comprising the steps of:

generating initiation commands and associated initiation parameters for

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

instructing a selected server to initiate a manual encoding operation;
transmitting said initiation commands and said associated initiation parameters to said selected server via the network;
receiving encoded media data from said selected server via the network;
displaying said encoded media data at the administrator terminal, and also displaying interface components enabling the user to select from manual control options including a start option for starting and resuming the manual encoding process, and a stop option for stopping the manual encoding process;
receiving information input by the user indicating a selected one of the manual control options;
if said start option is selected, generating a start command for instructing said selected media server to start the manual encoding process, and transmitting said start command to said selected server; and
if said stop option is selected, generating a stop command for instructing said selected media server to stop the manual encoding process, and transmitting said stop command to said selected server.

20. (Original) A method as recited in claim 19 wherein each of the media servers is communicatively coupled with at least one corresponding multimedia device capable of generating media data, and wherein each of the media servers is operative to activate a selected one of said multimedia devices, and also operative to encode the media data generated by said selected multimedia device, and wherein said interface components include a multimedia device enabling a user to select from said multimedia devices.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

21. (Original) A method as recited in claim 19 wherein the administrator terminal includes a processing unit, and a viewing application executed by the processing unit, and wherein said step of displaying said encoded media data at the administrator terminal includes displaying said encoded media data in a window generated by said viewing application.

22. (Original) A machine readable storage device having stored therein encoding instructions for executing a process of providing a centralized user interface at an administrator terminal in a network for managing operations including encoding operations performed on media data by selected ones of a plurality of media servers, the process comprising the steps of:

displaying a graphical user interface at the administrator terminal, said interface including a plurality of interface components enabling a user to select between a manual encoding mode for manually starting and stopping manual encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers, and a scheduled encoding mode for defining schedules for scheduled encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the servers;

receiving information input by the user specifying a selected one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation;

generating commands and associated parameters based on the input information for instructing the selected server to execute the specified encoding operation in accordance with the selected mode of operation; and

transmitting said commands and said associated parameters to said selected server.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

23. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 22 wherein each of the media servers is communicatively coupled with at least one corresponding multimedia device capable of generating media data, and wherein each of the media servers is operative to activate a selected one of said multimedia devices, and also operative to encode the media data generated by said selected multimedia device.

24. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 23 wherein the encoding operations include a preview operation, and wherein the administrator terminal also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein the selected multimedia device is a video camera which generates media data including video data, and wherein said steps of displaying, receiving, generating, and transmitting further comprise:

displaying a preview select interface component enabling the user to select a preview option for executing a preview operation including displaying video data generated by a selected video camera coupled with said selected server;

receiving information input by the user indicating that said preview option has been selected;

generating preview commands and associated preview parameters for instructing said selected server to execute said preview operation;

transmitting said preview commands and said associated preview parameters to said selected server;

receiving preview video data from said selected server; and

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

displaying said preview video data in a browser window on the display unit of the administrator terminal.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 22 wherein the administrator terminal also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein said process is initiated by performing the steps of:

transmitting an applet to the administrator terminal via the network; and executing said applet over the processing unit of the administrator terminal, said graphical user interface being displayed within a browser window generated by said browser application on the display unit.

27. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 23 wherein if said scheduled encoding mode is selected, said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands further comprise the steps of:

displaying scheduling interface components enabling the user to select a start time and a start date for the scheduled encoding operation;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected start time and a selected start date for initiating said scheduled encoding operation; and

generating encoding commands and associated encoding parameters for instructing said selected server to encode media data received from said selected multimedia device at said selected start time on said selected start date.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

28. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 27 wherein said steps of displaying said scheduling interface components, and receiving information further include the steps of:

displaying duration interface components enabling the user to select from time duration specification options including, selecting a scheduled stop date and stop time for terminating said encoding operation, and

selecting a time duration for which said encoding operation is to continue following said selected start time on said selected start date; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of a selected time duration specification option.

29. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 22 wherein each of the servers is operative to access at least one corresponding memory device for storing media data, and wherein each of the servers is further operative to record selected portions of encoded media data that are encoded during said encoding operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying a storage selection interface component enabling the user to select a storage location by browsing a list of available storage locations including predetermined mapped ones of the memory devices associated with said selected server;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected storage location;

and

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

generating record commands and associated record parameters for instructing said selected server to store the selected portion of encoded media data at said selected storage location.

30. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 29 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying a name selection interface component enabling the user specify an asset name for said encoded portion of media data to be stored at said selected storage location; and

receiving information input by the user indicating a specified asset name;

wherein said record commands and associated record parameters provide for instructing said selected encoder media server to store said encoded portion of media data at said selected storage location under said specified asset name.

31. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 30 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying an overwriting option selection interface component enabling the user to select from a plurality of overwriting options for specifying attributes of the recording operation if a file having said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, said overwriting options including,

a first option for specifying that the user is to be prompted if a file having

Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003

said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation,
a second option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be overwritten with said encoded portion of media data, and a third option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be appended with said encoded portion of media data.

32. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 22 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the administrator terminal and to the servers, each of the servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and associated parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying streaming interface components enabling the user to define a streaming operation for streaming the encoded media data to selected ones of the end user terminals;

receiving streaming operation information input by the user; and

generating streaming commands and associated streaming parameters based on said streaming operation information, said streaming commands and associated streaming parameters for instructing said selected server to execute a streaming

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

operation for streaming the encoded portion of media data from said selected encoder media server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals via the network.

33. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 32 wherein said steps of displaying streaming interface components, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying streaming destination selection interface components enabling the user to select at least one of the end user terminals as a destination for streaming said encoded portion of media data; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of at least one selected end user;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a streaming command and associated streaming parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to stream said encoded portion of media data to said selected end users.

34. (Original) A machine readable storage device as recited in claim 29 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the administrator terminal and to the servers, each of the servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein the operations further include playback operations for streaming the stored portion of encoded media data from said selected media server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals in accordance with a user defined playback schedule.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

35. (Original) A server operative to provide an applet to a client via a network, the applet including encoding instructions for executing a process of providing a centralized user interface at the client in a network for managing operations including encoding operations performed on media data by selected ones of a plurality of media servers, the process comprising the steps of:

displaying a graphical user interface at the client, said interface including a plurality of interface components enabling a user to select between a manual encoding mode for manually starting and stopping manual encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the media servers, and a scheduled encoding mode for defining schedules for scheduled encoding processes to be performed by selected ones of the media servers;

receiving information input by the user specifying a selected one of the media servers, a selected mode of operation, and an encoding operation;

generating commands and associated parameters based on the input information for instructing the selected media server to execute the specified encoding operation in accordance with the selected mode of operation; and

transmitting said commands and said associated parameters to said selected media server.

36. (Original) A server recited in claim 35 wherein each of the media servers is communicatively coupled with at least one corresponding multimedia device capable of generating media data, and wherein each of the media servers is operative to activate a selected one of said multimedia devices, and also operative to encode the media data generated by said selected multimedia device.

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

37. (Original) A server recited in claim 36 wherein the encoding operations include a preview operation, and wherein the client also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein the selected multimedia device is a video camera which generates media data including video data, and wherein said steps of displaying, receiving, generating, and transmitting further comprise:

displaying a preview select interface component enabling the user to select a preview option for executing a preview operation including displaying video data generated by a selected video camera coupled with said selected media server;

receiving information input by the user indicating that said preview option has been selected;

generating preview commands and associated preview parameters for instructing said selected media server to execute said preview operation;

transmitting said preview commands and said associated preview parameters to said selected media server;

receiving preview video data from said selected media server; and

displaying said preview video data in a browser window on the display unit of the client.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) A server recited in claim 36 wherein if said scheduled encoding mode is selected, said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands further comprise the steps of:

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

displaying scheduling interface components enabling the user to select a start time and a start date for the scheduled encoding operation;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected start time and a selected start date for initiating said scheduled encoding operation; and

generating encoding commands and associated encoding parameters for instructing said selected media server to encode media data received from said selected multimedia device at said selected start time on said selected start date.

40. (Original) A server recited in claim 39 wherein said steps of displaying said scheduling interface components, and receiving information further include the steps of:

displaying duration interface components enabling the user to select from time duration specification options including,

selecting a scheduled stop date and stop time for terminating said encoding operation, and

selecting a time duration for which said encoding operation is to continue following said selected start time on said selected start date; and

receiving information input by the user indicative of a selected time duration specification option.

41. (Original) A server recited in claim 35 wherein each of the media servers is operative to access at least one corresponding memory device for storing media data, and wherein each of the media servers is further operative to record selected portions of encoded media data that are encoded during said encoding

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying a storage selection interface component enabling the user to select a storage location by browsing a list of available storage locations including predetermined mapped ones of the memory devices associated with said selected media server;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected storage location; and

generating record commands and associated record parameters for instructing said selected media server to store the selected portion of encoded media data at said selected storage location.

42. (Original) A server recited in claim 41 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying a name selection interface component enabling the user specify an asset name for said encoded portion of media data to be stored at said selected storage location; and

receiving information input by the user indicating a specified asset name;

wherein said record commands and associated record parameters provide for instructing said selected encoder media server to store said encoded portion of media data at said selected storage location under said specified asset name.

43. (Original) A server recited in claim 42 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying an overwriting option selection interface component enabling the user

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

to select from a plurality of overwriting options for specifying attributes of the recording operation if a file having said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, said overwriting options including,

a first option for specifying that the user is to be prompted if a file having said specified asset name exists at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation,

a second option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be overwritten with said encoded portion of media data, and a third option for specifying that any file having said specified asset name, existing at said selected storage location at the time of execution of said recording operation, is to be appended with said encoded portion of media data.

44. (Currently Amended) A server recited in claim 35 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the client and to the media servers, each of the media servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, receiving information, and generating commands and associated parameters further comprise the steps of:

displaying streaming interface components enabling the user to define a streaming operation for streaming the encoded media data to selected ones of the end

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

user terminals;

receiving streaming operation information input by the user; and

generating streaming commands and associated streaming parameters based on said streaming operation information, said streaming commands and associated streaming parameters for instructing said selected media server to execute a streaming operation for streaming the encoded portion of media data from said selected encoder media server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals via the network.

45. (Original) A server recited in claim 44 wherein the network further includes a plurality of end user terminals communicatively coupled to the client and to the media servers, each of the media servers being further operative to stream media data to selected ones of the end user terminals, the operations further including streaming operations, and wherein the operations further include playback operations for streaming the stored portion of encoded media data from said selected media server to corresponding selected ones of the end user terminals in accordance with a user defined playback schedule.

46. (Original) A server recited in claim 45 wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying playback destination selection interface components enabling the user to select at least one of the end user terminals as a destination for streaming said encoded portion of media data in accordance with a user defined playback schedule;

displaying play-back schedule interface components enabling the user define a play-back schedule; and

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

receiving information input by the user indicative of a user defined play-back schedule;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a play-back command and associated play-back parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to stream said stored portion of encoded media data to said selected end users via the network in accordance with said user defined play-back schedule.

47. (Original) A server recited in claim 46 wherein said play-back schedule interface components comprise:

a first group of components enabling the user to select a start time and a start date for said play-back schedule; and

a second group of components enabling the user to select from a plurality of options for specifying a play-back schedule duration.

48. (Original) A server recited in claim 45 wherein said operations further include notification operations associated with corresponding ones of the playback operations, said notification operations for sending notification messages to selected network addresses associated with selected ones of the end user terminals and the client.

49. (Original) A server recited in claim 48 wherein the notification operations include determining success or failure of the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation, and wherein said steps of displaying a graphical user interface, and receiving information further comprise the steps of:

displaying notification circumstance selection interface components enabling the

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

user to select from the notification circumstance options of,

a first option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation fails, a second option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation is successful, and

a third option of sending a notification message to selected network addresses if the streaming specified by the corresponding playback operation fails or is successful; and

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected notification circumstance option;

wherein said commands and associated parameters further include a notification command and associated notification parameters for instructing said selected encoder media server to send notification messages to the selected network addresses in accordance with said selected notification circumstance option.

50. (Original) A server recited in claim 36 wherein the client also includes a processing unit, a browser application executed by the processing unit, and a display unit, and wherein a selected one of the multimedia devices is a video camera which generates media data including video data, and wherein if said manual encoding mode is selected, said process further comprises the steps of:

generating manual mode initiation commands and associated parameters for instructing the selected media server to initiate a manual encoding operation;

transmitting said manual mode initiation commands and associated parameters

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

to said selected media server via the network;

receiving video data from said selected media server via the network;

displaying said video data in a browser window on the display unit of the client,
and also displaying manual encoding mode control interface components enabling the
user to select from manual control options including a start option for starting and
resuming the manual encoding process, and a stop option for stopping the manual
encoding process;

receiving information input by the user indicating a selected one of the manual
control options;

if said start option is selected, generating a start command for instructing said
selected media server to start the manual encoding process, and transmitting said start
command to said selected media server; and

if said stop option is selected, generating a stop command for instructing said
selected media server to stop the manual encoding process, and transmitting said stop
command to said selected media server.

51. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 1 further
comprising:

presenting a preview select option to the user;

if the preview select option is selected, transmitting a preview command to one
of said plurality of media servers and receiving preview video data in response
thereto; and

displaying said preview video data on the display unit of the administrator

*Application No. 09/518,359
Amendment Dated March 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2003*

terminal.

52. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 19 further comprising:

presenting a preview select option to the user;

if the preview select option is selected, transmitting a preview command to one of said plurality of media servers and receiving preview video data in response thereto; and

displaying said preview video data within a browser window on the display unit of the administrator terminal.

53. (Previously Presented) A server as recited in claim 35, wherein the process further comprises:

in response to a user preview selection command, obtaining preview video data from at least one of said media servers and displaying said preview video data within a window on the display unit of the administrator terminal.